

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A loop component of a hook and loop fastener, the loop component comprising:
 - a nonwoven body of fibers having a basis weight of less than about 4 ounces per square yard, the fibers forming
 - a sheet-form base containing taut sections of fiber extending within a common plane between tightened knots of fibers, and
 - a great multiplicity of loop formations dispersed across the base, each loop formation having
 - a trunk of fibers drawn together by taut fibers of the base and extending from an associated knot in the common plane of the base, wherein at least some of the fibers comprising the trunk each have a thickness that undulates along their length, and
 - multiple hook-engageable loops formed of fibers of the trunk and extending from the trunk for engagement by hooks of a mating component.
2. (Original) The loop component of claim 1 in which the majority of fibers forming the trunks and hook-engageable loops are crimped.
3. (Original) The loop component of claim 1 in which the knots of the base each correspond to an associated previous penetration of the body of fibers by a needle.
4. (Original) The loop component of claim 3 in which the body of fibers comprises crimped staple fibers.
5. (Original) The loop component of claim 1 in which the fibers comprising the trunks of the loop formations are secured together by a cured binder in interstices within the trunks.

6. (Original) The loop component of claim 5 in which the cured binder composes between about 20 and 40 percent of the total weight of the body of fibers.

7. (Original) The loop component of claim 1 in which the fibers comprising the trunks of the loop formations are secured together by fused surface portions of at least some of the fibers comprising the trunks.

8. (Original) The loop component of claim 1 in which the fibers comprising the trunks of the loop formations are secured together by interlocking crimps of the fibers.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The loop component of claim 1 further comprising a resilient layer of foam laminated to the base of the body of fibers.

11. (Original) The loop component of claim 1 further comprising a layer of resin laminated to the base of the body of fibers.

12. (Original) The loop component of claim 11 in which the resin layer forms hook projections shaped to engage the loops of the component.

13. (Original) The loop component of claim 1 having a basis weight of less than about 2 ounces per square yard.

14. (Original) The loop component of claim 1 in which the hook-engageable loops extend to an average loop height, measured as the perpendicular distance from the sheet-form base, of between about 0.020 and 0.060 inch.

15. (Original) The loop component of claim 14 in which the body of fibers has an overall thickness, defined to include the sheet-form base and a majority of the loops, the average loop height being between about 0.5 and 0.8 times the overall thickness of the body of fibers.

16. (Original) The loop component of claim 1 in which the sheet-form base has between about 50 and 1000 tightened knots per square inch of area, from which hook-engageable loop formations extend.

17. (Original) The loop component of claim 1 in which the body of fibers is generally composed of fibers having a tenacity of at least 2.8 grams per denier.

18. (Original) The loop component of claim 1 having a Gurley stiffness of less than about 300 milligrams.

19-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) A non-woven loop fabric for engaging hooks in a hook-and-loop fastener, the fabric having a basis weight of less than about 2 ounces per square yard and comprising

a stretched, non-woven mat of fibers entangled at knots therein, the mat having a front side and

free-standing and spaced-apart loop structures extending at least from the front side of the mat from the knots in the mat, said structures defining hook-engageable loops and corresponding associated knots,

the mat being stabilized in a condition of at least 20 percent areal stretch.

35. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 wherein the mat is stabilized in a condition of at least 50 percent areal stretch.

36. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 wherein the mat is stabilized in a condition of at least 100 percent areal stretch.

37. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 wherein at least some of the knots of the mat are secured to resist relative fiber motion therein and further stretching of the fabric.

38. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 37 further comprising a binder to secure the fibers of the loop structures at their associated knots.

39. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 38 wherein the binder is solidified, fluid-applied binder.

40. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 38 comprising between about 20 and 40 percent binder, by weight.

41. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 38 wherein the binder is selected from the group consisting of acrylics, urethanes, polyvinyls, formaldehydes, glyoxals and epoxies.

42. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 38 wherein the binder comprises a fire-retardant material.

43. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 38 wherein the binder comprises polymer filaments entangled among said fibers, said filaments being at least partially melted to encapsulate said knots.

44. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 38 wherein the binder forms a backing that is adapted to be welded to a substrate.

45. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 wherein at least some of the loop structures each comprise multiple loops emanating from a common fiber knot.

46. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 having an overall thickness, including the mat and a majority of the loop structures, of less than about 0.150 inch.

47. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 wherein the loops extend to an average loop height from their associated entanglements, measured as the perpendicular distance from the mat, of between about 0.020 and 0.060 inch.

48. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 47 wherein the fabric has an overall thickness, including the mat and a majority of the loop structures, and wherein the average loop height is between about 0.5 and 0.6 times the overall thickness of the fabric.

49. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 having a knot density of between about 50 and 1000 knots per square inch of mat.

50. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 49 having a knot density of between about 100 and 600 knots per square inch of mat.

51. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 50 having a knot density of between about 150 and 300 knots per square inch of mat.

52. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 wherein the fibers generally have a tenacity of at least 2.8 grams per denier.

53. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 wherein the fibers generally have a tenacity of at least 5 grams per denier.

54. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 53 wherein the fibers generally have a tenacity of at least 8 grams per denier.

55. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 wherein the loops of the loop structures extend from the mat to varied heights to form a multi-level arrangement of hook-engageable loops.

56. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 wherein at least some of the loop structures each comprising
a common, elongated trunk portion extending from the mat from an associated knot and multiple loops extending from the trunk portion.

57. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 wherein the loop structures generally each comprise three or more hook-engageable loops.

58. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 wherein the fibers are generally of 15 denier or less.

59. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 wherein the fibers are generally of 8 denier or less.

60. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 wherein the fibers are crimped at a crimp density of at least about 7 crimps per inch.

61. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 wherein the fibers are of a material selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyurethane, polypropylene, polyethylene, nylon, homopolymers, mixtures, copolymers, alloys or coextrusions thereof and natural fibers.

62. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 34 having a Gurley stiffness of less than about 300 milligrams.

63. (Previously Presented) The loop fabric of claim 62 having a Gurley stiffness of less than about 100 milligrams.

64. (Previously Presented) A loop product for hook-and-loop fastening, comprising a stretched, non-woven fabric of entangled fibers having front and back surfaces, the front surface having exposed, through-forced loops of said fibers extending therefrom capable of being engaged by a hook-type fasteners, and

a binder securing the fibers at the back surface of the fabric to resist further elongation of the fabric,

and stabilizing the fabric in a state of at least 20 percent areal stretch.

65. (Previously Presented) A loop product for hook-and-loop fastening, comprising a stretched, non-woven fabric of entangled fibers having front and back surfaces, the front and back surfaces having exposed, through-forced loops of said fibers extending therefrom capable of being engaged by hook-type fasteners,

a binder securing the fibers to resist further elongation of the fabric,

and stabilizing the fabric in a state of at least 20 percent areal stretch.

66-89. (Canceled)